

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02268 101608Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00

OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /192 W  
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R 101503Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2268

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, FI, XH, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO FINNISH-EAST EUROPEAN TRADE  
AGREEMENTS

REF: HELSINKI 1034

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED FINNISH-EAST EUROPEAN TRADE  
AGREEMENTS WITH TORE BOGH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 02268 101608Z

DEPARTMENT, NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BOGH SAID

THAT NORWAY WAS WATCHING THE AGREEMENTS CAREFULLY. FINNS HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES TO NORWAY THAT THEY CAN CONTROL THE FLOW OF TRADE AND THAT AGREEMENTS WILL NOT AFFECT NORWEGIAN-FINNISH TRADE. BOGH SAID THAT NO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY HAD APPROACHED NORWAY REGARDING SIMILAR AGREEMENTS, AND NORWAY HAD NO REPEAT NO INTENTION AT THIS TIME OF NEGOTIATING SUCH AGREEMENTS.

2. BOGH CITED PRECEDENT OF U.K.-IRISH FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT FINNISH/EASTERN EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS APPEARED LEGAL UNDER EFTA. WHEN FINNISH AGREEMENTS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE GATT, NORWAY WILL NOT OBJECT TO THEM SINCE AGREEMENTS WOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NORWAY. HE DID NOT SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR AFFECT ON GATT OR ECE. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, HE CONSIDERED THEM SIMILAR TO NORWEGIAN TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. TARIFFS NO LONGER HAD MUCH RELEVANCE FOR NORWEGIAN TRADE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WOULD BE STILL LESS IMPORTANT AFTER THE COMING ROUND OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. BOGH CITED APPROACHES MADE BY THE COMECON SECRETARIAT TO THE EC COMMISSION AND TO THE NORDIC SECRETARIAT. HE SAID THAT THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE COMECON SECRETARIAT IN CLOSER TIES MAY REFLECT SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE PROLIFICATION OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN COMECON PARTNERS AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FINLAND AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD BE VIEWED AS WEAKENING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND, THEREFORE, AS HELPFUL. THE EFTA AND NORDIC SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE COMECON OVERTURES PENDING AN INDICATION OF HOW THINGS WENT BETWEEN COMECON AND THE EC COMMISSION. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ETRD, FI, XH, NO, GATT, (BOGH, TORE)  
**To:** STATE  
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